

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 15, 2003. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Initially, please note that the specification and abstract have been amended in response to the objections thereto on page 2 of the previous Office Action. Note that a clean copy of the specification and abstract is provided to facilitate the processing of the present application.

Further, on pages 2-4 of the Office Action, claims 11 and 17 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 9 and 14 of co-pending application No. 10/009,690 in view of Foye (USPN 3,556,197). Accordingly, upon an indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant's will submit a Terminal Disclaimer in order to overcome the above provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Further, on pages 5-7 of the Office Action, claims 1-10 are rejected over Foye (USPN 3,556,197) in view of Kittilsen et al. (USPN 5,915,455) or Steen et al. (USPN 5,678,623). However, claims 1-10 were cancelled in response to the first Office Action, and therefore the rejection of claims 1-10 is moot.

Further, in response to the Examiner's comments on pages 7-9 of the Office Action, the preamble of each of the independent claims has been amended to clearly recite that the invention is directed to "horizontal continuous casing equipment" as suggested by the

Examiner. Clearly, none of the prior art references discloses or suggests a horizontal casting apparatus in which the primary cooling through the permeable wall material can be regulated. Note that additional dependent claims have been included in order to define further novel features of the present invention. For example, claims 27-28 recite a thermally insulating annular plate, and an intermediate cooling channel which performs the primary cooling through the permeable wall material. In view of the above, it is submitted that the present invention, as embodied by claims 11-28 are now clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

Further, for the reasons set forth in the previous response, it would not have been obvious to employ the Kittilsen method in an apparatus for lubricating metal in a mold as in the Foye apparatus.

Also, Steen discloses a "vertical" casting apparatus, and if the teachings of Steen were employed in a horizontal casting operation, a gas pocket would be created at the top of the mold.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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